

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for keeping a person warm, comprising:

a generally tubular length of material having an open end, a closed end, an inner surface, and an outer surface;

an elastic band encircling said open end;

a protective mat secured to the outer surface of the closed end of the apparatus; ~~and~~

a fastener attached to the outside of the protective mat ~~for securing the closed end of the apparatus to an external surface; and~~

a complementary fastener attached to a tree stand base.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a pocket in said tubular length of material at or near said open end.

Claims 14-18 (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said material is a weatherproof material.

20. (currently amended) A method of keeping a person warm while in a tree stand, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a generally tubular length of material comprising:

an open end, a closed end, an inner surface, and an outer surface;

an elastic band encircling said open end;

a protective mat secured to the outer surface of the closed end of the apparatus; and

a fastener attached to the outside of the protective mat ~~for securing the closed end of the apparatus to an external surface;~~ and

a complementary fastener attached to a tree stand base;

- (b) inserting one or both feet and legs into the generally tubular length of material; and
- (c) pulling the open end of the length of material up to a desired height.

- 21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the weatherproof material is chosen from nylon, polar fleece, and parachute silk.
- 22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the inner surface is polar fleece and the outer surface is either parachute silk or nylon.